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TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR WHITE BA FOR LEGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PA, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION:
PARAGUAYAN INVOLVEMENT

1. INVESTIGATION INTO ASSASSINATIONS IN SEPTEMBER
1976 IN WASHINGTON OF ORLANDO LETELIER AND AMCIT
RONNIE MOFFITT IS, AS YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE,
A HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATTER ON BOTH JUDICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC
GROUNDS. EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE IN STATE AND
JUSTICE DEPTS AND IN EMBASSY SANTIAGO TO LIMIT ACCESS
TO INFORMATION TO STRICT NEED-TO-KNOW.

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2. WASHINGTON POST APRIL 14 CARRIES LENGTHY ARTICLE
BY KAREN DEYOUNG ON LETELIER CASE DEVELOPMENTS TO
DATE. PARTS OF HER ARTICLE REFLECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION
NOT PREVIOUSLY MADE PUBLIC. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT
OF HER TEXT RELATING TO PARAGUAY: QUOTE: THE PARTIAL
STORY OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE

- PIECED TOGETHER FROM ACCOUNTS BY DIPLOMATS AND CHILEAN OFFICIAL SOURCES - BEGINS IN THE SMALL AMERICAN COUNTRY OF PARAGUAY. IN JULY 1976, APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS BEFORE LETELIER'S DEATH, TWO MEN CARRYING OFFICIAL CHILEAN GOVERNMENT PASSPORTS ASKED FOR AND WERE GIVEN DIPLOMATIC VISAS TO THE UNITED STATES. THE NAMES ON THE PASSPORTS WERE JUAN WILLIAMS ROSE AND ALEJANDRO ROMERAL JARA. WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, BEFORE THE MEN HAD LEFT PARAGUAY, THE VISAS WERE REVOKED WHEN U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS BEGAN TO WONDER WHY CHILEAN OFFICIALS WERE APPLYING FOR VISAS IN A THIRD COUNTRY. THE MEN WERE SUSPECTED OF BEING CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS, AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS SUBMITTED WITH THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS WERE RETAINED AND SENT TO WASHINGTON TO INCLUDE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S FILES ON DINA. END QUOTE.

3. FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: ON JULY 27, 1976, EMBASSY ASUNCION ISSUED B-2 VISAS TO SUPPOSED PARAGUAYAN NATIONALS "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL", NOW KNOWN TO BE AMERICAN CITIZEN MICHAEL V. TOWNLEY AND CHILEAN ARMY CAPTAIN ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS, ON OFFICIAL PARAGUAYAN RPT PARAGUAYAN PASSPORTS. ON AUGUST 5 THEN AMBASSADOR TO PARAGUAY LANDAU REPORTED TO DEPT THAT HIGH PARAGUAYAN OFFICIAL HAD REVEALED TO EMBASSY THAT FRAUDULENT PARAGUAYAN OFFICIAL PASSPORTS FOR "WILLIAMS" AND
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"ROMERAL" HAD BEEN REQUESTED OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET. VISAS WERE REVOKED ON AUGUST 9, 1976, BEFORE THEY WERE USED BY TOWNLEY AND FERNANDEZ. THEY THEN RETURNED TO CHILE AND APPARENTLY USED OTHER DOCUMENTATION TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. EMBASSY SANTIAGO, WHICH HAD NOT RECEIVED VISA ALERT NOTICE, ISSUED OFFICIAL VISAS ON AUGUST 17, 1976 TO TWO CHILEAN OFFICIALS, ON OFFICIAL CHILEAN PASSPORTS, IN NAMES OF "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL". IT APPEARS THAT THESE TWO OFFICERS WERE NOT RPT NOT TOWNLEY AND FERNANDEZ AND MAY HAVE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH LETELIER CASE.

4. WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT ACTUAL CHANNEL WAS PINOCHET TO STROESSNER, BUT HIGH OFFICIALS OF TWO GOVERNMENTS DID COMMUNICATE TO ARRANGE PASSPORT ISSUANCE.

5. FACT THAT PASSPORTS USED BY "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL" IN PARAGUAY WERE PARAGUAYAN AND NOT AS POST ARTICLE HAS IT, CHILEAN, HAS NOT YET BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. GIVEN HIGH PRESS INTEREST IN CASE, HOWEVER, AND FACT THAT VARIOUS CHILEANS AND PARAGUAYANS KNOW THE FACTS, IT WILL NOT BE SURPRISING IF STORY OF PARAGUAYAN

INVOLVEMENT IS PUBLISHED.

6. IF YOU ARE QUESTIONED BY THE PRESS OR APPROACHED BY PARAGUAYAN OFFICIALS CONCERNING THIS EPISODE, YOU SHOULD HOLD FIRMLY TO "NO COMMENT", REMINDING INTERLOCUTORS THAT THE LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE IS UNDER JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION, AND REPORT DEVELOPMENTS TO

DEPARTMENT AND TO LEGATT BUENOS AIRES THRU THIS RESTRICTED CHANNEL.

7. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY EUGENE M. PROPPER. CHRISTOPHER

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